



Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (CANCELLED)
2. (CANCELLED)
3. (CANCELLED)
4. A method for creating and operating a communicatively coupled network system with effective utilization of data storage capacity on nodes in said network system wherein:

the storage capacity on all or selected nodes is segmented into non-sharable and shared storage capacity based either on the percentage of 'available/unused' or 'total installed' storage capacity or as a specific amount of unused or installed storage capacity on the nodes;
said method further enables all or selected nodes to write data to a central file server or server group after utilization of available storage space on the said nodes or server group, and;
said data written onto said central file server is striped across said shared storage space on said nodes in said network system.
5. A method of claim 4, where the data written to the central file server or server group is abstracted and displayed as a local file with a pointer to the actual location on the central file server or server group.
6. A method of claim 4, where the data sent by the nodes to the central file server or server group is written with or without parity.
7. A method of claim 4, where the data written to shared storage is batched together into a sequential log and then divided into efficient larger blocks to optimally use the network and I/O subsystem bandwidth.
8. A method of claim 4, where the data written to shared storage is scheduled at off-peak system usage times based on statistics provided by network bandwidth meters and I/O subsystem capacity.
9. A method of claim 4, where the data is written either at a file level or block level.
10. A method of claim 4, where the high data availability on all nodes and server groups is ensured through computed parity and multiple levels of redundancy.

11. A system for creating and operating a communicatively coupled network system with effective utilization of data storage capacity on nodes in said network system wherein:

the storage capacity on all or selected nodes is segmented into non-sharable and shared storage capacity based either on the percentage of 'available/unused' or 'total installed' storage capacity or as a specific amount of unused or installed storage capacity on the nodes;
said method further enables all or selected nodes to write data to a central file server or server group after utilization of available storage space on the said nodes or server group, and;
said data written onto said central file server is striped across said shared storage space on said nodes in said network system.

12. A system of claim 11, where the data written to the central file server or server group is abstracted and displayed as a local file with a pointer to the actual location on the central file server or server group.
13. A system of claim 11, where the data sent by the nodes to the central file server or server group is written with or without parity.
14. A system of claim 11, where the data written to shared storage is batched together into a sequential log and then divided into efficient larger blocks to optimally use the network and I/O subsystem bandwidth.
15. A system of claim 11, where the data written to shared storage is scheduled at off-peak system usage times based on statistics provided by network bandwidth meters and I/O subsystem capacity.
16. A system of claim 11, where the data is written either at a file level or block level.
17. A system of claim 11, where the high data availability on all nodes and server groups is ensured through computed parity and multiple levels of redundancy.
18. A method for creating and operating a communicatively coupled network system with effective utilization of data storage capacity on nodes in said network system wherein:

the storage capacity on all or selected nodes is segmented into non-sharable and shared storage capacity based either on the percentage of 'available/unused' or 'total installed' storage capacity or as a specific amount of unused or installed storage capacity on the nodes;